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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Initial Soviet Reaction to the
Chinese National People's Congress

Initial Soviet commentary on China's National People's Congress suggests Moscow sees no hope for greater Chinese flexibility in dealing with the Soviet Union.

The Soviets are interpreting the congress as a clear-cut gain for reputed pragmatists led by Chou En-lai and Teng Hsiao-ping. Radio Moscow has assured Soviet listeners, however, that Chou and Teng are moderates only by "Chinese standards," and that no important change in Peking's policies is likely. Other Soviet commentary has noted that the revised constitution approved by the congress replaced references to friendship toward the USSR with "anti-Soviet, offensive, and saber-rattling slogans." The Soviets view this change as merely formalizing Peking's current anti-Soviet line.

It has become almost an article of faith in Moscow that there can be no significant change in relations with China until Mao passes from the scene. The Soviets are tending to view the actions of the congress as supporting that view. Even the post-Mao leadership, they believe, will probably be tough on the Soviet Union. Those whose leadership positions were set by the congress are now more committed to strongly anti-Soviet positions and will find it difficult to reverse these positions in the immediate post-Mao period.

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Yugoslavia: Contenders at Odds

Competition among some of the leading candidates for Tito's party post has begun to sharpen. The immediate cause seems to be the prolonged illness of Edvard Kardelj, Tito's long-time confidant and probably the first choice of the military and the "partisan generation" to head the party. Kardelj underwent surgery for cancer in December, and the severity of his illness has sparked speculation among other party hopefuls that he is now out of the running.

As a result, a showdown may be looming between Stane Dolanc, the secretary of the Executive Committee and--except for Kardelj--the strongest contender, and Jure Bilic, Croatia's dark horse candidate for Tito's party mantle. Both men are young, energetic party leaders who are likely to play key roles in the transition period.

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[redacted]
[redacted] the dispute between the two revolves around Bilic's bitter resentment of Dolanc's interference in the Croatian party. Bilic wants this party fiefdom for himself, and the opportunity is there because Vladimir Bakaric, the current Croat party boss, is so ill that retirement or death are imminent possibilities.

In fighting Dolanc's influence in Croatia, Bilic has even alleged [redacted] Dolanc served in the German army in 1941-42. This charge conflicts with the official biography on Dolanc that says he was arrested by the Gestapo when he was 16 because of his activities in the partisan movement. The allegation is probably false, and it could backfire on Bilic. Substantiation of the charge, however, would be a serious and probably fatal political blow to Dolanc.

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Dolanc has also drawn blood. He gave at least tacit approval last December when Bilic was deprived of some important responsibilities on the executive committee. [REDACTED]

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Meantime, the absence of a clearly designated party successor is evidently encouraging other ambitious men. [REDACTED] the republic party chief in Bosnia-Hercegovina, a political lightweight in the larger Yugoslav arena, is also being touted as Tito's successor. [REDACTED]

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Bucharest Buys British Aircraft

Romania is likely to sign a contract soon to purchase five short range BAC-111 aircraft from the UK. Bucharest's decision to purchase British instead of US aircraft was influenced more by the overall sales package than by the merits of the BAC-111. Romania obtained manufacturing rights for some BAC-111 spare parts, a production agreement with Rolls Royce--manufacturers of the BAC-111 engines--and an extension of a British-Romanian manufacturing venture for smaller aircraft. London also provided excellent financing, which could not be matched by US companies.

The new aircraft will join seven older BAC-111s currently in Romania's civil inventory, making it one of the largest non-British BAC-111 fleets in the world. The aircraft will be employed primarily on the country's scheduled European services, but will also be used for charters. Romania also operates a number of Soviet aircraft and three long-range Boeing 707s, the latter on its New York and Peking routes.

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CHRONOLOGY

January 14 Australian Prime Minister Whitlam arrives in Moscow from Leningrad and is met by Premier Kosygin, just returned from vacation in the Caucasus. [REDACTED]

Secretary of State Kissinger announces the USSR's rejection of the 1972 US-Soviet trade agreement. [REDACTED]

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January 15 White House announces that President Ford will make a state visit to Yugoslavia at a time yet to be set. [REDACTED]

USSR and Australia sign scientific and cultural exchange agreements in Moscow. [REDACTED]

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Japanese Foreign Minister Miyazawa commences a three-day visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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Kuwaiti Oil and Finance Minister Atiqi concludes his official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

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Deputy Defense Minister Kulikov confers in Moscow with visiting Iraqi chief of the general staff Shanshal. [REDACTED]

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Czechoslovak party chief Husak confers with visiting Soviet Deputy Premier Iesechko. [REDACTED]

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Politburo member Shelepin addresses a Soviet trade union plenum and refers to Brezhnev's "tremendous personal

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contribution to the implementation of
the 24th CPSU Congress' peace program."

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Politburo member Grishin leads Soviet
delegations on a five-day visit to
Warsaw for celebration of that city's
30th anniversary of "liberation" from
Nazi control.

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Romanian President Ceausescu confers
with Soviet Deputy Premier Dymshits.

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US and USSR resume in Vienna their
talks on technical aspects of peace-
ful nuclear explosion devices.

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Slovak Central Committee concludes
a meeting in Bratislava on "how to
implement...the conclusions of the
November plenum of the Czechoslovak
Central Committee."

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Soviet Embassy in Washington, citing
home leave plans, discloses that
Ambassador Dobrynin will return to
Moscow next week.

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Cuban Deputy Premier Castilla begins
a visit to the USSR.

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Polish party chief Gierek concludes
a one-week visit to Cuba. [REDACTED]

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20 West European Communist parties,
issue a joint statement condemning
US statements on possible military
action against Middle East oil-
producing states. [REDACTED]

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After extensive talks with Premier
Kosygin and a meeting with President
Podgorny, Australian Prime Minister
Whitlam concludes his five-day visit
to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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January 17

Japanese Foreign Minister Miyazawa
concludes his visit to the USSR after
meeting with President Podgorny to
deliver Prime Minister Miki's message
addressed to Brezhnev. [REDACTED]

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Deputy Premier Dymshits concludes
his visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

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Hungarian party leader Kadar meets
with East German Politburo member
Hager. [REDACTED]

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Party secretary Ponomarev receives
the Hero of Socialist Labor title on
the occasion of his 70th birthday.

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Polish party chief Gierek returns
home after a 10-hour stop in Portugal.

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January 18 Soviet-Japanese statement on the Miyazawa visit notes both states will continue peace treaty negotiations with a view to signing the document "at an earliest date." [REDACTED]

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RSFSR Council of Ministers concludes a meeting on agricultural subjects, RSFSR Premier Solomentsev delivered the principal speech. [REDACTED]

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Red Star discloses that Defense Minister Grechko spent "several days" in East Germany during the week visiting Soviet troops. [REDACTED]

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January 19 Three rifle shots are fired into the Ukrainian UN mission in New York; a Jewish group claims responsibility. [REDACTED]

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Indian Foreign Minister Chavan begins a five-day visit to Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

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January 20 East Germany announces the appointment of Oskar Fischer to replace Otto Winzer as foreign minister. [REDACTED]

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Czechoslovak party chief Husak and Premier Strougal begin a visit to Bulgaria. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Party secretary Katushev confers in Moscow with a visiting Yugoslav party delegation. [REDACTED]

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CSCE resumes in Geneva. [REDACTED]

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FUTURE EVENTS

January 27 Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek
to commence a four-day visit to
Finland. [REDACTED] 25X1

Albania's legislature to convene. [REDACTED] 25X1

late January Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov
to go to Yugoslavia for a visit. [REDACTED] 25X1

MBFR negotiations to resume in Vienna.
[REDACTED]

Deputy foreign ministers of the Warsaw
Pact states to meet in Moscow. [REDACTED] 25X1

January 31 SALT to resume in Geneva. [REDACTED] 25X1

early February Icelandic Foreign Minister Agustsson
to visit the USSR. [REDACTED] 25X1

Finnish Foreign Minister Karjalainen
to visit the USSR. [REDACTED] 25X1

US and USSR probably will resume in Moscow
their talks on handling peaceful
nuclear explosion devices in a thresh-
hold test ban treaty. [REDACTED] 25X1

February 7 UN Secretary General Waldheim to
commence a three-day visit to East
Germany. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

February 13 UK Prime Minister Wilson to begin a
six-day visit to the USSR. [REDACTED] 25X1

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late February	US and USSR likely to resume in Washington their talks on an agreement to curb efforts to modify the environment to gain military advantages. [REDACTED]	25X1
early March	French parliamentary delegation led by former Foreign Minister Couve de Murville to visit the USSR. [REDACTED]	25X1
March 9	Elections to be held for the Romanian Grand National Assembly. [REDACTED]	25X1
March 11	Romanian chief of staff Coman to begin a nine-day visit to the US, the first by such a high-ranking officer from a Warsaw Pact member-state. [REDACTED]	25X1
March	Former West German Chancellor Brandt likely to visit the USSR. [REDACTED]	25X1
late March	French Premier Chirac to visit the USSR. [REDACTED]	25X1

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